

Serial No. 10/801,813

Attorney Docket No. 02-114

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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 9 and 10 are pending. Claims 2, 7, and 8 have been canceled. Claims 9 and 10 are new. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In an interview held on 17 October 2006, the examiner agreed that the limitations of claim 2 are not disclosed by Hara et al. The examiner said that claim 2 would be allowable if written in independent form. Claim 7 was also discussed at the interview, but no agreement was reached. The applicants argued that at least the features of lines 28-32 of claim 7 are not disclosed by Hara et al.

The term "cutting means" has been changed to "cutting tool" not in response to the rejection but to remove "means" type language from the claims.

Claims 1, 3-6, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hara et al. Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled and will not be discussed. As for claims 1, and 3-6, the applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The limitations of claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, according to the agreement reached at the interview, claim 1 and its dependents should be allowable, because Hara et al. fails to disclose or suggest the feed rate of 0.001-0.012 mm/revolution.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara et al. Claim 2 has been canceled and will not be discussed.

Serial No. 10/801,813

Attorney Docket No. 02-114

Claim 9 is new. Claim 9 is essentially original claim 3 written in its independent form. Claim 3 recites that the relative movement of the cutting means is temporarily stopped. As recited in page 11, line 26 to page 12, line 9 of the original specification, this temporal stop of the relative movement of the cutting means allows effective removal of burrs. The patent to Hara et al fails to disclose or suggest this limitation. Therefore, claim 3 should be patentable over Hara et al.

In the Hara et al. reference, the cutting device may be stopped at the end of the cutting operation. However, the Hara et al. reference does not disclose or suggest that the cutting means is moved again after the temporary stop. More specifically, as shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B of the present application, the relative movement of the cutting tool 15 is temporarily stopped between the cutting part B and the cutting part A and is resumed thereafter. This temporary stop period results in relatively small cutting resistance in the vicinity of the cutting operation point Q.

Claim 10 is similar to claim 9 and claims the subject matter disclosed, for example, in Figs. 4A and 4B. However, the last section of claim 10 uses slightly different wording than the last section of claim 9. Claim 10 is considered to be in condition for allowance for the reasons given above with respect to claim 9. That is, the cited references including the Hara et al. reference fail to disclose or suggest temporarily stopping the cutting tool between two cutting areas of the commutator. Therefore, claim 10 should be patentable.


Serial No. 10/801,813

Attorney Docket No. 02-114

In view of the foregoing, the applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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